

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF ALABAMA
NORTHERN DIVISION**

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA)
)
)
vs.) CRIMINAL NO. 06-00176-07-CG
)
KENNETH TAIWAN MOORE,)
)
Defendant.)

ORDER

This matter is before the court on defendant's motion for a trial in the Northern Division of the Southern District of Alabama, at Selma, with a jury drawn from the qualified jury wheel of the Northern Division. As grounds, the defendant asserts that the defendant is a resident of that division, the offense alleged took place in that division, and the co-defendants are believed to be residents of that division.

There is no right to have a criminal trial in a particular division of a district, or to have one's jury selected from jurors from a particular division. However, upon timely application the district court may, in its discretion, grant such a request. See United States v. Burns, 662 F.2d 1378, 1382 (11th Cir. 1981) and FED.R.CRIM.P. 18. The application was undoubtedly timely. However there are logistical problems which this case presents that a trial in the Northern Division of the District cannot accommodate. There are twelve defendants named in the indictment, who, presumably, will be tried together. So far, no co-defendant has filed a notice of intent to plead guilty, and the court therefore assumes that this will be a multi-defendant trial.¹

¹ Because summonses for jurors must be sent out seven to eight weeks in advance of jury selection, the court cannot wait to see how many of the co-defendants in this case may opt to enter guilty pleas. Today is the midway point between seven to eight weeks in advance of jury selection, and the court must decide the motion on the information extant.

All of the defendants are in custody, and either are, or will be, set for trial during the October 2006 Criminal Jury Term. The Federal Courthouse in Selma is a one-courtroom building, with either one or two holding cells in the Marshal's one-room office. It would be impossible to accommodate the security concerns of a trial involving more than one or two in-custody defendants, and possibly several in-custody witnesses, with the physical limitations of the courthouse in Selma. This case has 12 in-custody defendants. The case will be tried in Mobile, and the defendant's motion for a Northern Division trial is **DENIED**.

Although this District's Jury Plan does not allow for a Northern Division jury to be selected on a case tried in the Southern Division of the District, it does allow for a petit jury to be drawn from the district at large. This is an appropriate case in which to apply that provision of the Jury Plan, and the court therefore **ORDERS** that the petit jury in this case be drawn from the district at large, according to the procedure specified in the Jury Plan.

DONE and ORDERED this 15TH day of August, 2006.

/s/ Callie V. S. Granade
CHIEF UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE